**Separate bench of Karnataka High Court**

1453. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation led by Chief Minister of Karnataka demanding a separate bench of Karnataka High Court for North Karnataka called on the Prime Minister on June 22, 2000;

(b) if so, the case presented by the delegation;

(c) the decision taken thereon;

(d) whether any other proposals for setting up additional benches of various High Courts are under consideration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and at what stage the same stand at present?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The delegation requested for setting up a permanent Bench of the Karnataka High Court at Hubli-Dharwad.

(c) The Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court has conveyed that it is neither desirable nor feasible to establish a Bench of the High Court at any place away from the principal seat. The setting up a Bench of a High Court, away from the principal seat, is normally considered on the receipt of a complete proposal from the concerned State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of that High Court.

(d) and (e) The Government has received complete proposals for setting up of Benches of the Madras High Court and the Calcutta High Court respectively from the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Courts. Accordingly, it is proposed to establish a Bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai and a Bench of the Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri, after infrastructural facilities like court buildings, accomodation for Judges etc. are provided by the respective State Governments to the satisfaction of the High Court.

**Documents filed under Amnensty Scheme**

1454. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of documents filed by Companies under Amnesty Scheme for which over Rs. 110 crore are said to have been collected as fees;

(b) how many of these documents are pending for registeration recording as on 31st December, 2000;

(c) whether it is a fact that lakhs of pending documents in Registrar Office are not available for inspection or for certified copies to public; and

(d) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

**SC guidelines for Fast Track Courts**

1455. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court proposes to lay down guidelines for monitoring and functioning of Fast Track Courts being set up in various States;

(b) if so, whether the number of Fast Track Courts would be enhanced in all the States and Judges be appointed to dispose of the cases;

(c) if so, whether the various Bar Councils have given their views on the functioning of Fast Track Courts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) The matter regarding functioning of Fast Track Courts is presently under *sub-judice* in the Supreme Court in the Transfer Case (Civil) No. 22/2001, Brij Mohan Lal Versus Union of India and others. In the said case, as per Order dated 8th November, 2001, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has observed;

it will be appropriate if some guide-lines are laid down with regard to the functioning of the fast track courts.

(b) to (d) The matter is *sub-judice* involving the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh, Bar Association of Peddapally, A.P. and Others.

**Criticism of Fast Track Court Project**

1456. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently criticised Government's amibitious scheme to speed up trials under "Fast Track Court' Project;